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NSC BRIEFING

21 February 1955

PROPOSED OUTLINE

- I. Europe still seized with the formalities rather than substance of ratification Paris Accords: in Far East, Japan on brink of new elections which ^{may} ~~will~~ see her committed to program of better relations with Orbit.
- A. French cabinet impasse has reached third week, with Faure the fourth candidate for premiership. Although dragged-out crisis not improving chances for speedy action on Accords, thusfar optimism remains.
- B. This Thursday, debate begins in Bundestag on Accord ratification. Although Saar portion of agreements will meet stiffest challenge, favorable, if narrow-margined, Bonn action expected by end of week.
- C. Optimism on mechanics of ratification, however, overlooks larger problem of implementation. Signs are found not only in Germany and France, but in UK as well; that issue of Western talks with USSR will be pressed before any hope of getting Accords off paper and into action.
- D. Hope of exploiting these European sentiments has doubtless dictated Soviet propaganda policy of stressing peace, while at same time flexing muscles. Latest such propaganda play was Soviet statement of 18 Feb (mis-labeled generally as "disarmament proposal") offering hope of outlawing atomic weapons, as well as general freeze on expansion of military forces. Soviet under-
- lining of atomic war's "severe consequences...for the

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more densely populated parts of Europe" designed to stimulate such European neutralist sentiment.

- E. Meanwhile, Kremlin's campaign for "normalization" of relations with WW II enemy, Japan, passing from stage of words to deeds. Newest faction of disunited Japanese conservatives (Democrats under Hatoyama) will gain most in 27 Feb elections and will form next government. Democrats have used issue of better Orbit relations as mainspring of campaign. Although close ties with US remain basis of Japanese economic existence and main hope of nation's Conservatives, we can expect to see post-election spectacle of US-nurtured nation following international line at least superficially at variance with our own.

II. Other world developments include:

- A. Latest news from China's offshore islands.
- B. Confirmation of existence two new Soviet aircraft.

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